

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01948 090303 Z

16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-12

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12

NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 L-03 RSR-01 IGA-02 EA-11

H-02 /136 W

----- 010216

R 081100 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5161

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1948

BANGKOK FOR CUSTOMS ATTACHE (SAMADUROFF); DELHI FOR BNDD
(LORENZ)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NP

SUBJECT: POLICY REGARDING ANTI- NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN NEPAL

REF: BANGKOK 7106 AND PREVIOUS

NEW DEHLI 5173 AND PREVIOUS

1. REFTELS AND PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS POINT TO VERY RAPID
RECENT GROWTH IN IMPORTANCE OF KATHMANDU AS CENTER AND ORIGIN
POINT FOR INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC, PARTICULARLY HASHISH- OIL.
MISSION WANTS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE BUT FACES SIGNIFICANT
CONSTRAINTS ON EXTENT TO WHICH IT CAN ASSIGN BNDD AND CUSTOMS
ENFORCEMENT OFFICES TO COPE WITH EVOLVING SITUATION.

1. THE MAJOR CONSTRAINTS ARISE FROM GON LEGAL AND MANPOWER
LIMITATIONS. ONLY ACTIVITY CITED IN REFTELS AND PREVIOUS WHICH
CLEARLY CONTRAVENES PRESENT NEPALESE LAW IS EXPORT OF DRUGS.
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO MISSION OFFICERS
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THAT PENDING ENACTMENT OF NEW NARCOTICS LEGISLATION, HE IS IN NO POSITION TO CRACK DOWN ON LOCAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES. GIVEN ABSENCE OF ANY COMPREHENSIVE NARCOTICS LEGISLATION, HE HAS ALSO NOT BEEN ABLE OBTAIN AUTHORITY TO ORGANIZE SPECIAL FORCE OF POLICE OFFICERS COMPETENT TO ENGAGE IN SUCH CRACKDOWNS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE MOST WE CAN DO IS PASS HIM INFORMATION PROVIDED US BY ACTION ADDRESSEES AND OTHERS, WITH ONLY VERY MODEST EXPECTATIONS THAT HE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH ANY DEGREE OF EFFECTIVENESS.

3. ANOTHER CONSTRAINT IS LACK OF PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL WITHIN MISSION; OUR SMALL EMBASSY STAFF HAS NO ONE ABOARD WITH REQUISITE BACKGROUND OR TRAINING TO FOLLOW UP ON SUCH INFORMATION AS REFTELS CONTAIN IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER. AVAILABLE STAFF TIME IS ALSO A PROBLEM DURING PERIODS OF HEAVY WORKLOAD. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE ARE UNWILLING TO DO OUR BEST ON NARCOTICS FRONT, BECAUSE WE ARE, BUT ONLY THAT IN- HOUSE STAFFING LIMITATIONS CAN BE EXPECTED TO BECOME A SIGNIFICANT CONSTRAINT IF DIMENSIONS AND COMPLEXITY OF ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO BURGEON.

4. FORTUNATELY BOTH OF THESE PROBLEMS APPEAR TO BE SHORT- TERM:

A. I HAVE JUST BEEN ASSURED BY JOINT SECRETARY SHARDUL RANA IN FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT GON HAS EVERY INTENTION OF ENACTING NEW NARCOTICS LEGISLATION BY JULY OR AUGUST. I HAVE ALSO BEEN ASSURED (MAY 5) BY ONE OF KING' S PRINCIPAL AIDES AT PALACE THAT HE IS SOLIDLY BEHIND LEGISLATION AND WILL ASSERT HIS INFLUENCE TO SEE THAT IT IS PASSED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MEANWHILE WE ARE APPROACHING IGP WITH SUGGESTION THAT IN VIEW PROBABILITY NEW LEGISLATION WILL SOON BE ON BOOKS, HE ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH US REGARDING SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICIALS TO BE SENT TO US FOR TRAINING IN NARCOTICS DETECTION AND ENFORCEMENT TECHNIQUES DURING FY '74. WE ALSO PLAN EARLY APPROACH TO FINANCE MINISTRY REGARDING SIMILAR TRAINING FOR GON CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.

B. ONCE NEW DRUG LAW IS PASSED, ESTABLISHING GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN GON AND USG ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES WHICH SUBSEQUENT TRAINING PROGRAMS SHOULD SOLIDIFY, SPECIFIC ENFORCEMENT SITUATIONS IN NEPAL WILL HOPEFULLY PROVIDE OCCASION FOR MORE FREQUENT VISITS HERE BY BNDD AND CUSTOMS
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REPRESENTATIVES. THIS WILL BE ESSENTIAL IN OUR OPINION FOR EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF JOINT ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS.

5. PENDING ENACTMENT OF NEW LAW AND CREATION OF GENERAL FRAME-
WORK FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN USG AND GON ENFORCEMENT
AUTHORITIES,
WE SEE LITTLE POINT IN THIS MISSION ATTEMPTING TO ENLIST

NEPALESE POLICE COOPERATION ON EVERY SPECIFIC CASE THAT COMES TO ATTENTION OF ACTION ADDRESSEES. THIS HAS NOT IN THE PAST BEEN A NORMAL FUNCTION OF THIS MISSION AND IGP HAS PERSONALLY INDICATED TO US, AS NOTED ABOVE, HIS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE BUT ONLY AFTER NEW LAW IS ENACTED. MISSION THEREFORE RECOMMENDS TO ACTION ADDRESSEES THAT, FOR TIME BEING, AD HOC REQUESTS FOR NEPALESE POLICE COOPERATION ON SPECIFIC CASES NORMALLY BE SENT TO ICP THROUGH INTERPOL CHANNELS. NEPALESE POLICE PRIDE THEMSELVES ON BEING FULLY COOPERATIVE MEMBER OF INTERPOL ORGANIZATION AND IN OUR OPINION MAY BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO REQUESTS MADE THROUGH THAT CHANNEL THAN TO REQUESTS MADE THROUGH THIS MISSION. AT SAME TIME, WE WISH EMPHASIZE NEED TO KEEP US FULLY IN PICTURE, I. E., PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED WHENEVER YOU DO REQUEST ACTION OF GON THROUGH INTERPOL.

6. FOR BANGKOK. IN VIEW PARA 5 OF REF A, WE ASSUME THERE IS NO LONGER ANY SIGNIFICANT LIKELIHOOD THAT KLETT WILL BE COMING TO KATHMANDU. WE HAVE NOT THEREFORE ASKED LOCAL POLICE TO KEEP LOOKOUT FOR HIM. PLEASE CONFIRM. IN ANY EVENT, PREFER AS NOTED ABOVE THAT IF YOU DO WISH LOCAL POLICE SURVEILLANCE OF KLETT YOU REQUEST SAME THROUGH INTERPOL CHANNEL. (THIS COULD PROVIDE USEFUL TEST OF GON RESPONSIVENESS TO SUCH REQUESTS WHEN CHanneled THROUGH INTERPOL.)

7. FOR NEW DELHI. FOLLOWING COMMENTS RESPOND TO YOUR 5173 :

(A) FOREGOING GENERAL APPROACH REFLECTS CONSENSUS EXPRESSED MAY 4 DURING MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE MEETING. (B) UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE SUGGEST YOU GIVE UP ANY SLOW DOWN OF GOI/ CBI INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING NEPAL. POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH INVESTIGATIONS COULD STRENGTHEN INDIAN POSITION THAT NEPAL SHARES RESPONSIBILITY FOR INDIA'S DRUG PROBLEM IS ESSENTIALLY NEPAL'S PROBLEM, NOT OURS, AND AS LONG AS WE STAY OUT OF PICTURE AS FAR AS NEPALESE ARE CONCERNED, SITUATION UNLIKELY TO HURT FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR US- NEPALESE COOPERATION IN ENFORCEMENT
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FIELD.

(C) TENTATIVE MISSION COMMITTEE REACTION TO YOUR PROPOSAL RECOOPERATING INDIVIDUAL WAS NEGATIVE. I WILL DISCUSS THIS IN MORE DETAIL NEXT WEEK DURING VISIT TO DELHI. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT OUR PRESENT READING IS THAT GON FUTURE COOPERATION WITH US COULD BE JEOPARDIZED WERE SUCH AN UNDERTAKING TO BECOME KNOWN TO NEPALESE AUTHORITIES, AND THAT ATTEMPT CLEAR SUCH UNDERTAKING WITH GON IN ADVANCE WOULD RISK ALMOST CERTAIN REFUSAL.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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Reference: 73 BANGKOK 7106, 73 NEW DELHI 5173
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971223
Subject: POLICY REGARDING ANTI- NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN NEPAL
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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005